

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer:

We write to support you in your commitment to using every power at your disposal to hold a vote on the *For the People Act* (S.1) in the United States Senate in June and to pass the bill before August recess. As you eloquently expressed at the opening of the Senate's markup of the bill, the onslaught of anti-democratic and racist attacks on democratic participation across this nation necessitates the broad and comprehensive set of solutions found in the *For the People Act*. We share your steadfast opposition to any effort to eliminate core components of this critical package of reforms, like public financing and independent redistricting commissions. Together, these pillars of S.1 will strengthen and protect our democracy.

In March, we in the House of Representatives passed the *For the People Act* (H.R.1). It is now time for the Senate to act on this critical civil rights legislation. We cannot miss this opportunity to protect and enhance voting rights, reduce the undue influence of big money in our politics and on our policies, take partisanship out of drawing district lines, and strengthen and restore the ethical rules and norms so badly damaged over the past five years.

New York State has already led the way on some of the key reforms in the *For the People Act*. In 2019, the state [enacted](#) early voting and advanced no-excuse mail voting and same-day voter registration, both of which require state constitutional amendments. Last year, New York became the [first state](#) since *Citizens United* to enact a statewide small-donor public financing program (based on New York City's proven matching model) and [joined](#) the ranks of 18 other states and Washington D.C. by passing automatic voter registration. Recently, the State Senate [approved](#) a rights restoration bill that would automatically restore voting rights to New Yorkers upon release from prison. Over the last two years, New York has shown it is possible to restore and expand our democracy in the face of a concerted effort to weaken it.

We now have the opportunity, and obligation, to advance these same reforms nationwide, and then the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and statehood for Washington D.C. As we tackle the challenges facing this country – including the COVID-19 pandemic and the crises it has exacerbated in employment, housing, health care, education, and more – we must ensure that America's diverse voices will be heard in the decisions that directly impact their lives.

This will be a defining moment for Democratic leadership: in your words, “a legacy-defining choice.” We appreciate what you’ve already stated about this legislation: failure is not an option. We must now show how strongly we value a democracy that will work for *all* Americans by demonstrating the will to overcome any barriers standing in the way. We can still have a multiracial democracy in America, but only if we fight for it. We look forward to working with you to pass the *For the People Act* – with all of its core components, including small-donor public financing and independent redistricting – in the U.S. Senate by August recess. As you fulfill this historic responsibility to protect our democracy, we will have your back every step of the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mondaire Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mondaire" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jones".

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

/s/ Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510